VOTING ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

DEMAND VIII—EXCISE DEPARTMENT—(*contd.*)

Motion No. 487.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE (*Tiruvalla I*): My motion is to reduce the allotment of 4,535 for Supplies and Services and Contingencies by Re. 1 to point out the necessity for removing the restriction to purchase any salt, foreign or local, at the option of the consumer.

PRESIDENT: I have again to impress upon the House that every motion which is made under a particular grant ought to bear some sort of relevancy or relationship to that particular grant. In this case, the Honourable member wishes to move for the reduction of one rupee from an allotment of Rs. 4,535 for supplies and services and contingencies for the purpose of raising a very important question, *viz.*, to point out the necessity for removing the restriction to purchase any salt, foreign or local, at the option of the consumer. It is therefore, inevitably, to discuss the policy of Government and to make his own comments thereon and offer his own suggestions. That is a very wide field, and I think a cut motion like that is not germane to the sub-head under which it has been fixed. It would come under the total grant. So, the Honorable member will have to hold his patience until the total grant comes and then make his speech.

The motion was not therefore moved.

Motion No. 488.

The following motion was not made:—

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI:

488. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,751 for Salt Factories by Re. 1.

Motion No. 489.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, I beg to make the following motion.

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,751 for Salt Factories by Re. 1.

PRESIDENT: A bit louder, please.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, the object of my motion is to point out the immediate necessity of paying more attention to the Salt Factories of the State. Travancore is a State which has got an extensive seacoast. Salt manufacture can be carried on in a large scale and we have great scope and facilities for the same. But we are importing salt from outside to a large extent. If extensive and intensive cultivation is carried on in our salt factories, we can be self-sufficient; and more than that, we will be able to export salt to the neighbouring States also. Sir, when the Inspectors in charge of the Salt Factories could evince some more interest and co operation with the licensees, we know that the factories produce more salt. It is due to the want of co-operation between the Inspectors in charge of the Salt Factories and the people of the locality that we have to complain about low production of salt here.

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[Mr. A. Easwara Pillai]

I wish to make a few observations, Sir, with regard to the Rajakkamangalam *Allom* and the Colachel *Allom* in South Travancore. Sir, South Travancore is specially suited for salt manufacture, and these two *Allums* are situated in an advantageous position. Before the Kodayar Irrigation Project came into existence, these two factories were able to produce much more salt than they are able to manufacture now.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know from the member whether the output of salt in the Colachel *Allom* can be improved by intensive cultivation?

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): That is what I mean. In the course of my speech, I shall point out———

PRESIDENT: Wait a bit and see what he is going to say. He is not insolvent in ideas.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, the main defect in these two *Allums* is freshwater percolation. That has been pointed out to the attention of the authorties and the present Excise Commissioner has said that, with the co-operation of the Chief Engineer (which he seems to fear he is not getting properly), the working of these *Allums* could be improved much.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): This subject was touched upon by some members yesterday. I never said that I did not get the co operation of the Chief Engineer.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, I know that the Excise Commissioner has pointed out that the Public Works Department did not care to divert the two streams by the side of these two *Allums* to supply brine or to prevent fresh water percolation.

The Administration Report of 1107 suggests the diversion of these streams, and it is now two years; yet that work was not attended to. Sir, my attempt is to impress upon the Excise Commissioner the necessity of making Travancore self-sufficient in the matter of salt manufacture. Sir, it is a necessity to us. It is as though air, water and light to us. It was pointed out that the consumption per head is 18·57 lbs. per year. It is the doctor's opinion that a person should consume at least 20 lbs. of salt.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla III*): May I know the name of the doctor?

PRESIDENT: Let him remain unnamed.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Medical opinion is that every person must consume 20 lbs. of salt.

PRESIDENT: In a month or in a year?

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): In a year, of course.

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MR. S. CHATTAHATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : I rise to support the motion. Sir, it cannot be denied that it is the policy of the Government to make the State self-sufficient with regard to her requirements of salt. I find from the Administration Reports for the previous years that the Department has been keeping this policy in view. Sir, the out-turn of salt from the local factories has been steadily rising year after year, from the year 1104 onwards. But in the year 1108, Sir, there was a sudden fall. I can say, from my own experience, that it has been brought about not on account of the policy of the Excise Department, but it was due to extremely unfavourable weather conditions. If therefore we leave the year 1108 out of account, we find a steady increase in the out-put of salt.

I wish to make a few observations with regard to the improvement of the condition of our salt factories. One of the most important suggestions I want to make is that fragmentation of salt factories should be stopped. It is a feature that has to be studied by the Departmental Head and guarded against. Sir, fragmentation was referred to by some members, in connection with agricultural holdings as a harmful practice. But fragmentation of salt factories is much more serious. Wherever fragmentation has taken place, there has been a steady deterioration in the condition of the factory with resultant fall in the out-turn of salt. For instance, common works that are calculated to improve the condition of the pans such as maintenance of the reservoir, improvement of channels, etc, have been neglected—and badly neglected—in factories where fragmentation has taken place. We have to take a long view of the matter. Unless this question is taken into consideration seriously and steps are taken to guard against fragmentation taking place, I fear disastrous results will follow during the years to come. I suggest that legislation should be undertaken at a very early date to prevent fragmentation of factories. This is a very important suggestion I have to make.

Another important question that I would like to refer to is about the payment of *Kudivila*. There is no definite system now with regard to this. The system, so far as I can understand, is that Government or rather the Excise Department do not exercise their option, of taking over the salt, at any particular period. The licensees are asked to store the salt on platforms and the Government take delivery of it after allowing it to remain there for an indefinite period of time, with the risk of being washed away by the rains to the detriment of the licensees. So long as the salt is there, the Department will claim it as theirs and will not allow the licensee to lay his hand on it. If the salt is destroyed, it becomes the licensee's salt and he must bear the loss. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. I hope this unsatisfactory state of affairs will be immediately remedied.

The third point which I want to bring to the notice of the Excise Commissioner and the Government relates to the question of giving credit facilities to the licensees. I do not suggest that the Government should give them credit facilities. My suggestion is that they should

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[Mr. S. Chattanatha Karayalar.]

be enabled to have credit facilities on the security of their stock of salt. In British India, there is a practice by which a licensee is at liberty to transfer certain heaps of his salt to his bankers who would advance him money on the security of the salt. No such system prevails here. If such a system is introduced here, it will enable licensees to obtain credit facilities and give great relief to such as are in need. I am afraid I have not got any more time. With these observations, I support the motion.

PRESIDENT: I hope, the Honourable member who has just sat down realises the fact that he has spoken in support of a cut motion which aims to reduce only one rupee from a total grant of Rs. 10,751, whereas it is seen that *his* cut motion specifies a reduction of Rs. 5. Is he prepared to amend his motion accordingly ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*). I do not wish to speak upon my own motion, after having supported this one.

PRESIDENT: Are you supporting the one rupee cut or the five rupees cut ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): One rupee cut.

PRESIDENT: So, you amend "five rupees" into "one rupee" ?

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): Yes.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Urban*): Sir, the difficulties in the manufacture of salt in Travancore are in a great measure due to the legacy of the Interportal Convention. For, under the terms of that Convention, Travancore is entitled to get sufficient quantities of salt though they pledged themselves not to realise more revenue than was done in British India. At that time, another difficulty arose. There were considerable quantities of salt manufactured in places like Kayankulam. But it was black salt. The salt which was used in Tinnevelly and other places was also black salt. Steps were therefore taken to prevent smuggling of Travancore salt into the British territories. There may be other reasons, besides ; but this was the prominent one. In the course of a few years, the Kayankulam salt pans ceased to exist. Then I believe, it was in the time of Dewan Mr. Sankarasubbier or a little before that, an officer was appointed styled the Salt Peishkar and asked to supervise the manufacture of salt. I am sorry, Sir, that that arrangement was done away with subsequently. The Excise Commissioner is one of the most important officers of the State. I have got sufficient acquaintance with the Excise Commissioner which enables me to say that the present Commissioner is a very hard-worked officer. He has to regulate various things, amongst which, there is the difficult question of customs taxation and the equally difficult question of salt manufacture. The Excise Commissioner, whoever he be, will not be able to devote that amount of attention to the manufacturing of salt

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which the subject really deserves; and the Assistant Excise Commissioner, whoever he be, in charge of *alloms* in South Travancore, is generally a man without experience in salt manufacture. Some time ago, I know, when my friend Mr. G. Nilakantan was in South Travancore, some training was given to one of the officers in the Excise Department in salt manufacture. But the exigencies of the Excise Department prevent these officers being retained in the *alloms*, so much so, in the general transfers, we find, a gentleman who has dealings with smuggling cases in Piravom frontier is suddenly transferred to Tamaracolam *allom* to do work which he does not know. I would therefore emphasise the necessity for taking steps to give sufficient training to at least one Assistant Excise Commissioner in the Department and to see that he thinks about his work, that he lives and moves in that kind of work, so that he may be able to formulate proposals to the Excise Commissioner, who in turn has to submit proposals to the Government. I also emphasise the necessity of opening more *alloms*. Engineering has developed in these days to an enormous extent. I remember having read in the newspapers that an underground way was made in England 3 miles long and that His Majesty the King opened it. It is open for Travancore Engineers to do such things, though on a smaller scale. In Northern India, water is being diverted from the Indus and Ganges rivers through underground ways for irrigation purposes. I am absolutely certain that there are good Engineers in the department. Our Engineers also can find some means to supply brine. I wish Government will enquire into this matter and see that the total out-put is increased.

At this stage the President left the House and the Deputy President occupied the Chair.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : I support the motion. The policy of the department in the matter of salt manufacture in the State is most suicidal. The work of the department is most unsatisfactory. From the report of the administration of the Excise Department for the year 1108, it can be seen that the State produced, in the year 1107, 11,06,344 lakhs maunds of salt, but when it came to 1108, it was reduced to 3,43,857 maunds of salt. Sir, this figure that I have just placed before you would convince any one that the policy pursued by the department in the matter of salt manufacture in the State is unprogressive and unpatriotic. There is a cry in Travancore that Travancore must be made self-supporting in everything. Now we are importing, and unnecessarily importing, and we are compelled to import unnecessarily and to our disadvantage salt from outside. There was a time when Travancore was self-supporting and self-sufficient in the matter of manufacture of salt, tobacco, etc. Not only that; there was a time when Travancore had the privilege of exporting Travancore-made salt to Tinnevelly and other out-side places.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*) : Where is it stated that it was self-sufficient in the matter of salt ?

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In the ancient history of Travancore and its commerce it would be found that Travancore was self-supporting not only for salt, for all products, for rice, for anything and everything, Sir.

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): What was the population at that time?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): I know, Sir, and anticipated the question from the official side, that it was as a result of the increase of population in the State we are not able to manufacture as much quantity of salt as is required for meeting the demands of the people in the State. As our Deputy President has just pointed out in this House, there was a salt pan at Kayankulam from where we used to export salt to British India. Where is that pan? Do we see those pans? We do not, Sir, believe that this increase of population, has affected the manufacture of salt. I would say that the salt manufacture is not at all satisfactory. As a result of the increase of population, if only proper encouragement was given, salt, which is a necessity for man, would also have increased; in proportion to the demand, supply also would have increased. This is the law of nature. This is the accepted canon of supply and demand. This, the department, due to its short-sighted policy and absence of imagination, has failed to take note of; and consequently, the country is suffering in this direction.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER (*Kunnatnad I*): May I know from the member whether there are facilities for salt manufacture at Nedumangad?

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): No facilities for salt manufacture, in Nedumangad, excepting the manufacture of "rock-salt"; but there are facilities even for gold manufacture in Nedumangad. (*Laughter*). So, as my friend, our Deputy President, has just pointed out, I would submit that this department must be placed under a separate officer. He suggested that it may be placed under one of the Assistant Excise Commissioners. I would even suggest that this department must be placed under an expert so far as salt manufacture is concerned and not under an ordinary Assistant Excise Commissioner as we have got it to-day. The Salt Department must be placed directly under a special officer; and it must be manned and managed by an expert, and thus Travancore must be made self-supporting, self-contained and self-contented in the matter of salt.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I wish to make one or two observations about the quantity and the quality of salt manufactured. As regards the inability of the department to manufacture the full quantity of salt the country wants I would say it is due to the want of a definite policy on the part of Government. Sir, the low out-turn of salt is attributed by the Excise Commissioner as due to the absence of favourable weather conditions. What I say is you must be able to manufacture all the salt we want, whether there is the favourable condition or not.

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DEPUTY PRESIDENT: I cannot hear what the member says.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Sir, there is a certain number of months in a year during which salt can be manufactured. During these months, of which there are at least 4 or 5, you must be able to manufacture the full quantity. Whether conditions are satisfactory or not, the principal factor that influences manufacture, as may be seen from the comparative study of the out-turn of salt in the Srimulakrishnamony *allom* and the old *allom* in the same year, is the supply of good brine. The former with a smaller area has produced in 1108 three times as much salt as the latter that has a much larger extent. The difference is due to the quality of brine used. Now, Sir, Excise Commissioner, Mr. Gomathinayagam Pillai, and, I believe, the present Excise Commissioner too, had asked for a loan of a lakh of rupees from the Government for the purpose of obtaining brine from the sea. The question of brine supply has been engaging the attention of Government for the last 15 years, but nothing has been done yet.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): May I know from the member whether the factories at Rajakamangalam and Colachel are capable of being improved?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I have already stated that Government has been wasting money on these factories for many years.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): May I know from the member whether these factories have to be closed for re-opening at a later date or have to be closed for ever?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): So far as Government are concerned, they ought to abolish them for ever.

MR. A. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): May I know from the member whether it is an expert opinion?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): It is the opinion formed as a result of the experience of many years.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Modesty may prevent a gentleman from calling himself an expert. He says that he is experienced.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether there is any possibility of opening salt factories in Central Travancore?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): No, there is no possibility, because the weather does not permit it and the physical conditions as those of the bars have changed considerably.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara*): Has the member experience of those parts?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Yes. I have seen those parts and I have been an Inspector there for a few years. There were some factories in Central Travancore; but they had to be given up as soil and weather conditions did not render them economical. As regards the manufacture of black salt, it was due to faulty method of manufacture. The present method of manufacture is of recent origin.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member whether it is as a result of the method of salt manufacture in recent times that salt cannot be manufactured at Kayankulam where people used to manufacture in olden days?

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): I am speaking of the conditions to be fulfilled before salt pans can be established in a given locality.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Sir, the mover of the motion, Mr. Easwara Pillai, Member for Kalkulam, wanted to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity for making Travancore self-sufficient in the matter of salt supply. I pointed out yesterday that we have got salt factories enough to yield what Travancore wants and more The yield at present, it must be admitted, is not enough for our purposes. The yield can be increased in one or other of two ways, by intensive cultivation or by extending the area under cultivation.

So far as the extent of the area under cultivation is concerned, the opinion now held is that we cannot indefinitely extend the area suitable for salt manufacture in Travancore. In the first place, in places on this side of Colachel, the rainfall is very heavy and there will be rain almost every month throughout the year. So, we have to look for suitable lands from Colachel southward and in that area, lands suitable for salt manufacture are very limited. Every bit of land that is available for the purpose is being given away for opening new factories. This year, as I mentioned yesterday, a plot of land has been leased to Mr. Karayalar for opening a new factory.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): Are there additional lands for registry at Tamaracolam?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): At Tamaracolam, the factories have been opened by assigning lands from the bed of the Manakudi lake.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): I am asking whether there are additional lands to be assigned there.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Already the assignment from the bed of the lake has affected the supply of brine to the existing factories and no more land can be assigned, without affecting the supply further. It is only in other places that land can be assigned. What I want to impress on the attention of the House is that all possible steps towards opening new factories are being taken by Government. It is the policy of Government to encourage manufacture of salt as far as possible and make Travancore self-sufficient in the matter of salt supply.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the member where expert training can be had in the manufacture of salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Manufacture of salt is carried on in an extensive scale in Bombay and other places and

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in Tuticorin. I understand that some of our officers had been sent to those places. Mr. Nilakantan himself was one.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANABHA MENON (*Shertala I*): May I know from the member whether there is at present in the Excise Department any officer who has had such expert training?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not aware of any.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know from the member whether after all expert knowledge is necessary for manufacture of salt in Travancore? Are there not—

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You cannot combine two questions.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): Our factories can work satisfactorily if the rules are followed and not much of expert training or knowledge is required for it.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You do not think that any expert will be able to do anything with regard to this manufacture of salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No, Sir. There are certain ways in which the manufacture of salt can be improved.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH (*Kalkulam I*): May I know from the member whether it is his opinion that the Rajakkamangalam and Colachel *alloms* cannot be improved?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): They can be improved and we are taking steps for improving those *alloms*. I shall deal with the difficulties at Rajakkamangalam and Colachel in the course of my speech.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Is anything done to reduce the percentage of magnesium salt in common salt?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The services of the Industrial Chemist have been utilised for the purpose and funds have been provided for him to perform his experiments. He is doing work at the Tamaracolam old factory where the salt manufactured is considered to be most inferior. As the result of his experiments, I hope that we will be able to improve the quality of our salt.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): Has he been long there?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): He began his work only a few months back.

RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*): What is the total approximate cost that will have to be incurred by Government in the event of the improvement of the salt factories at Rajakkamangalam and Colachel?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): No estimate in that direction has been obtained. The dfficulties at Rajakkamangalam and Colachel are two-fold. In the first place, there is percolation of fresh water and then there is the difficulty in getting sufficient quantity of brine.

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RAO SAHIB S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Nominated*) : Is the member aware that the cost will be prohibitive ?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : That is supplying information.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : May I know from the member whether Government are bound to make this improvement at their cost or should the licensees bear it ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : So far as the Rajakkamangalm and Colachel *allom* are concerned, Government have to do it at their cost because the factories there are worked under the monopoly system. In the other factories which are worked under the modified system, the licensees themselves have to do the work.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : May I know whether the Government has any objection to the modfied excise system being introduced in these two factories ?

MR C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : No. The only thing is that the licensees must join together and approach the Government for changing the system. In respect of the Tamaracolam old *allom*, which was worked under the old monopoly system the modified system was introduced only two years back.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Will the introduction of the modified system relieve the department to some extent ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Certainly.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*) : May I know from the member why there is difficulty in getting good brine in the Rajakkamangalam and Colachel factories ?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : In the Rajakkamangalam factory, brine is taken through a bar near the factory. Just at the mouth of the bar there is what is called the Alankal, a fresh water channel which opens into the sea with the result that the brine in the channel becomes diluted. Work is being carried out—perhaps it will be completed soon – with a view to divert the Alankal from this bar so that it may flow into the sea at some distance from the bar. When that is done, it is expected that the Rajakkamangalam factory will be able to get a very good supply of brine. So far as Colachel *allom* is concerned, there were two different schemes for the supply of brine. Lately what is called the combined foot-bridge and aqueduct was completed for the supply of brine. In actual working that has not been found to be very successful. There is the old scheme, partly abandoned, for taking brine from a rock in the sea and bringing it along a channel. That obviously appears to have been abandoned some time back. I visited the factory last year with the Executive Engineer Mr. Arunachalam Aiyar. We had a talk about the matter ; and I may say that Mr. Arunachalam Aiyar and myself were inclined to think that the old abandoned channel from the rock would be more useful in bringing brine to the Colachel factory.

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MR. PACODE A NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : After hearing the learned Excise Commissioner, I am tempted to offer one or two remarks on the question of the manufacture of salt which looms so large in our discussions year after year on the floor of this House. On this question, there is one point which is, I am sorry to say, left out of consideration by the members. The position of Government in regard to this question has got to be realised. It has got a dual capacity. Salt is a Government monopoly and it is one of the most important items of Government revenue. Secondly, Government have, of course, to view the question of salt as a national asset. In regard to the first point, namely getting sufficient revenue out of the salt required for consumption in this State, the position of Government is only that of a business-man. It is nothing more, nothing less. I would just refer to page 20 of the Administration Report of the Excise Department, where the duty realised by the Government on the various items of salt consumed in the country is given. Sir, it will be seen that whether all the salt that is required for consumption in Travancore is manufactured in Travancore or whether the whole quantity is imported from outside, say either from Bombay or from Tuticorin, it does not affect the interests of Government as a business-man, because we find that in any case the Government is entitled to get the duty.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Is it by virtue of the provisions of the Interportal Trade Convention ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : I do not know, Sir. That is the practice followed by the Government. In the matter of importation of foreign salt, the Government's position is much better than it would be if all the salt required for our consumption were produced in Travancore because the duty realised from salt manufactured in our salt factory is Rs. 2-3 as. per maund whereas the duty realised by Government from salt imported from Bombay is Rs. 2 as. 9 p. 6 per maund.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Is it the duty or the issue price?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : That is the issue price. Of course, we have to deduct proportionately the duty also. The proportion of duty will also be the same.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*) : Is not the duty on Home salt and Bombay salt the same ?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : For imported salt and Home salt, the duty is the same. So the Government is not a loser either by importing salt or by manufacturing salt.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*) : May I know the amount of duty?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*) : It is now Re. 1 as. 9 p. 6, after the recent changes introduced by the Government of India ; our Government had also to make this alteration. So, Sir, the

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[Mr. Pacode A. Narayana Pillai.]

position is very clear. It is only a business concern. It is not the interest of Government to encourage salt culture in Travancore, because as a revenue-paying concern, it is all the same whether all the salt is manufactured here or imported from outside. Then as regards the other capacity of Government, it is the bounden duty of all patriotic Governments to see that their main concern is the betterment of the material condition of the people and to encourage the manufacture of Home salt. The question is whether our Government have been bestowing that attention as a Government on the encouragement of the manufacture of Home salt. I am sorry to say that the policy of our Government in this matter, as in several other matters, has been one of a policy of drift.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): Why should Government encourage salt industry at all?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): I did not hear the question.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum— Rural*): Sir, we heard neither the question nor the answer.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: In which case both may be effaced from memory.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): Am I to answer?

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Have you heard the question?

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): The question was not audible.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether there is any necessity for Government to encourage salt manufacture so far as revenue is concerned?

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): As it is, it is the duty of all Governments to encourage the manufacture of Home salt.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: You have explained that matter sufficiently before it was put, so you can go to other points.

MR. PACODE A. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Vilavankod*): So, Sir, as a Government, our Government have not been bestowing that amount of attention on the manufacture of Home salt as in the case of foreign salt. Sir, I have heard old people saying that the Rajakkamangalam *allom* has been once producing large quantities of salt for the whole State. There are old people even now living who have seen this salt factory working very satisfactorily.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): Sir, I move that the question be put.

MR. EASWARA PILLAI (*Kalkulam II*): Sir, I press the motion; and in doing so, I must state that I am not quite satisfied with the reply of the Excise Commissioner because he said that intensive and extensive cultivation is possible and the scope for Travancore to be self-sufficien

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is good and yet it would not give us plenty of salt. That means lack of encouragement in that branch of the Excise Department. So I press the motion.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : So far as the quantity manufactured is concerned, Mr. Easwara Pillai must admit that the encouragement and sympathy of the Department must be deemed more or less the same in 1107 as well as in 1108. Nobody can say that the Department or the Government were lacking in sympathy or co-operation in 1108 as compared to the year 1107, and yet we find a difference of 4 lakhs of maunds of salt in the yield in the two years. The cause of the great fall is nothing but the very unfavourable weather conditions that prevailed in 1108.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : May I know whether there is any authoritative report from the P. W. D. ?

MR C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, I wish to complete my speech without interruption.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : The official member says that he wishes to complete his speech before questions are put and that is the reason why I put Mr. Nilakantan to put his questions later on.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : So the fall in the yield of 1108 and 1109 was wholly due to unfavourable weather conditions and not due to any change in the attitude of the Government or the Department towards the licensees. There are one or two other points to which reference was made. Mr. Karayalar referred to the fragmentation of the factories as very injurious to the manufacture of salt. I fully agree with Mr. Karayalar in thinking that the fragmentation of salt factories is very harmful; but as the Regulation now stands, Government cannot help it. If the licensees alienate their pans, the Government are bound to ratify the alienation.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*) : Has the Regulation to be amended for the prevention of fragmentation?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : If fragmentation is to be prevented, the Regulation should be amended.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon I*) : May I know whether the Excise Commissioner has done anything in that direction?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*) : I have not brought that fact to the notice of Government.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : Mr. Nilakantan, you have not forfeited the right of questioning.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN (*Nominated*): May I know whether steps will be taken to bring in brine from the sea in the Tamaracolam factory?

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MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There are different proposals for that and the Government are considering the same.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR (*Shencotta*): May I know whether there is a demand for this from the licensees?

MR. C O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There is no demand from all. Some licensees have got sufficient brine in their own pans in the factories. Some others feel the difficulty. But Government's view is that effective methods should be adopted in Tamaracolam and they are taking steps.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum—Rural*): May I know whether there is any statement in the report from the P. W. D. as to the nature of the necessity and the practicability of the engineering works required for the supply of brine and for giving other facilities to the salt manufacturers?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): So far as supply of brine is concerned, I may inform the House that there are reports submitted by the P. W. D. to the Government.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): May I know whether there is a proposal for getting an engine for pumping brine?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): There was such a proposal. There were other proposals also. Opinions have differed with different Chief Engineers. That is the cause of the delay in the execution of the work.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI (*Trivandrum-Rural*): Sir, I wish to know whether anything really has been done. We have been discussing this matter year after year and I wish to know whether anything has been done in the matter.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT: May I say the member has no right to make a speech now?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): The proposals are before the Government and they are considering them.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil II*): May I know how long Government have been considering the question of supplying brine?

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (*Excise Commissioner*): That question has been engaging the attention of Government for some time and they are taking action in that direction.

The motion was put to vote and lost.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Vedumurjad*): Sir, I demand a poll.

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A poll was taken and the House divided as follows :—

AYES—23.

1	Mr.	T. K. Alexander	12	Mr.	K. Kunjukrishna Pillai.
2	,,	P. Chidambaram Pillai	13	,,	M. K. Madhavan Pillai
3	,,	A. S. Damodaran Asan	14	,,	M. N. Nair
4	,,	A. Easwara Pillai (*Kalkulam II*)	15	,,	K. A. Narayana Pillai
5	,,	A Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara*)	16	,,	Pacode A. Narayana Pillai
6	,,	K. R. Elenkath.	17	,,	S. Nilakanta Pillai.
7	,,	S. J. Nair	18	,,	Edavanatt S. Padmanabha Menon
8	,,	K. P. Krishna Menon	19	,,	Kainikkara M. Padmanabha Pillai
9	,,	Pottayil S. Krishna Panickar	20	,,	V. Ramakrishna Panickar
10	,,	Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai	21	,,	A. Thanu Pillai
11	,,	T. Krishna Pillai	22	,,	N. E. Varughese
			23	,,	T. P. Velayudhan Pillai

NOES—30.

1	Mr.	N. Abdur Rahiman Sahib	17	Mr.	E. K. Kunjuraman
2	,,	K. C. Abraham	18	,,	K. M. Kuriakose
3	,,	V. T. Chacko	19	,,	C. O. Madhavan
4	,,	S. Chattanatha Karayalar	20	,,	P. C. Narayanan Bhattatiripad
5	,,	R. Dhanukoti Pillai	21	,,	R. Nilakanta Pillai
6	,,	Antony George	22	Rao Sahib	S. Parameswara Aiyar
7	,,	K. George	23	Mr.	Kayalam Parameswaran Pillai
8	,,	M. Mahomed Haneef	24	Rao Bahadur	N. Ramanuja Aiyangar
9	,,	T. S. Jayantan Nambootiri	25	Mr.	K. Sankaran
10	,,	N. John Joseph	26	,,	M. Sivatanu Pillai
11	,,	J. M. Joseph	27	,,	R. M. Statham
12	,,	T. C. Joseph	28	,,	P. K. Thomas
13	,,	T. T. Kesavan Sastri	29	,,	T. C. Thommen
14	,,	K. M. Krishnan	30	,,	G. B. E. Truscott
15	Rao Sahib	Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai			
16	Mr.	C. V. Kunjuraman			

NEUTRALS—6.

1	Miss	Hepzibah Gnanasikamony	4	Mr.	G. Nilakantan
2	Mr.	K. Mahomed	5	,,	K. Padmanabhan
3	Srimati	T. Narayani Amma	6	,,	S. Thiraviam Nadar

The motion was declared lost

Motions Nos. 490 to 547.

The following motions lapsed on account of time limit :—

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :

490. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,751 for Salt Factories by Rs. 5.

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MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE :
491. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 69,823 for Salt Business by Re. 1

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE :
492. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 69,823 for Salt Business by Rs 5.

MR. S. CHATTANATHA KARAYALAR :
493. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,26,487 for Salt by Rs. 5.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
494. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,900 for Assistant Excise Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE :
495. To omit the allotment of Rs. 3,900 for Assistant Excise Commissioner.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
496. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,526 for salaries by Re. 1.

MR. KAINIKKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI :
497. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,526 for salaries by Re. 1.

MR. G. NILAKANTAN :
498. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,461 for Head Clerk, Head Accountant, Clerks etc., by Re. 1.

MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :
499. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 16,461 for Head Clerk, Head Accountant, Clerks' etc, by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
500. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 780 for temporary clerks by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
501. To reduce the allotment of Rs 780 for temporary clerks by Re 1.

MR. M. MAHOMED HANEEF :
502. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,241 for establishment by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :
503. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 17,241 for establishment by Re. 1.

MR. V. K. VELAPPAN NAIR :
504. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 5.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
505. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. EDAVANATT S. PADMANARHA MENON :
506. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. N. E. VARUGHESE :
507. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Re. 1.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI :
508. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for travelling allowances by Rs. 10.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
509. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 8,000 for equipment and clothing by Re. 1.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER :
510. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. M. N. NAIR :
511. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
512. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

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MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE :
513. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

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MR. N. JOHN JOSEPH :
516. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. K. MAHOMED :
517. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
518. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI :
519. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,146 for Commissioner by Re. 10.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
520. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,346 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
521. To reduce the allotment of Rs 47,346 for Commissioner by Rs. 1.

MR. T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI :
522. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,346 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. KAINIKKARA M PADMANABHA PILLAI :
523. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,346 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
524. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,346 for Commissioner by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
525. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,500 for travelling allowance by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
526. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 300 for secret service by Re. 1.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON :
527. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 61,827 for Division Offices by Re. 1.

MR. T. K. ALEXANDER :
528. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 61,827 for Division Offices by Rs. 4,800

MR. K. R. ELENKATH :
529. To reduce the allotment of Rs, 42,980 for Range Inspectors by Re. 1.

MR. K. PADMANABHAN :
530. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 43,588 for Salaries by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
531. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,208 for Inspectors by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
532. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,467 for local allowances by Re. 1,

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
533. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,82,063 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. S. NILAKANTA PILLAI :
534. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,82,063 for Excise by Rs. 5.

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MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
535. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,82,063 for Excise by Re. 1.

MR. S. J. NAIR :
536. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,233 for Inspectors by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
537. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,500 for temporary clerks by Re. 1.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN :
538. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,883 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :
539. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,883 for Customs by Re. 1

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN ;
540. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,883 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR K. C. KARUNAKARAN:
541. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,883 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN :
542. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,883 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. R. ELENKATH :
543. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,100 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. A. THANU PILLAI :
544. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 88,100 for Customs by Re. 1.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI :
545. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 88,300 for Customs by Re. 1

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI :
546. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,96,650 under Demand VIII by Re. 1

MR. K. R. ELENKATH :
547. To reduce the total allotment of Rs 5,96,650 under Demand VIII by Re. 1.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT : I put Demand VIII—Excise-for Rs. 5,96,650 to the vote of the House.

The Demand was passed and the grant made.

The House adjourned for lunch at 1 o'clock and re-assembled at 2 P. M. with the Deputy President in the Chair.

DEMAND IX—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forest*) : Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,97,938 under Demand IX—Forest.

Motion No 548.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Sir, I move *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,80,000 for royal trees by Re. 1* to discuss the need for the disafforestation of lands that lie on both sides of Trivandrum-Shencotta road to a width of 200 ft, beyond the 24th mile in T. S. road, and also for the purpose of discussing the need that the wet lands that lie inside the reserve forests in Nedumangad taluk be disafforested and given in registry. The word "uplands" found in the printed agenda placed before us is a clerical mistake. It is a printer's devil. It should be changed to 'wet land'.

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